LA Resources:

IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD HIGH QUALITY MASKS:

@MASKBLOCLA

MASK BLOC LA
N95

IF YOU'RE A PRODUCER INTERESTED IN MAKING YOUR SHOW SAFER:

@AIRGASMICLA

AIRGASMIC
@AIRGASMICLA

FOR OTHER ANTI-COVID GROUPS, OR IF YOU'RE NOT BASED IN LA, CHECK OUT COVID ACTION MAP!

covidactionmap.org

COVID IS A DRAG

(staying safe-r in the scene)

Let’s talk about

PRIDE

It’s true that no one throws a party quite like us, but what is it that makes our gatherings so special?

It’s the kinship, right? The concept of having each other’s backs, that “we keep us safe.” It’s our history of standing together to fight against persecution and brutality.

Our elders stood together to fight a pandemic that decimated our community.

REMEMBER:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

THERE WERE OVER 110 SAFER EVENTS LAST YEAR IN LA ALONE, 42 OF THEM WERE MASK REQUIRED.

THERE HAVE BEEN TONS OF COVID-SAFER SHOWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

IT MIGHT FEEL DAUNTING TO MASK UP WHEN THE MAJORITY OF SOCIETY DOESN’T, BUT REJECTING SOCIAL NORMS IS PART OF WHAT MAKES US QUEER, ISN’T IT?

MASK UP. FIGHT EUGENICS.

MAKE OUR ANCESTORS PROUD, AND ENSURE THAT WE WILL HAVE MORE QUEER ANCESTORS IN THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

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Testing, 123

TRY TO TEST REGULARLY. THERE IS NO U = U WITH COVID, AND BECAUSE OF ASYMPTOMATIC CASES, YOU MIGHT BE SPREADING IT WITHOUT KNOWING YOU'RE EVEN SICK! SHARING STI RESULTS ON DATING APPS HAS BECOME NORMALIZED, AND YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE SEX WITH SOMEONE TO CATCH/GIVE THEM COVID, SO TESTING REGULARLY IS PART OF KEEPING YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

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HIT UP YOUR LOCAL MASKBLOC OR CLEAN AIR ORG TO FOR FREE TESTS!

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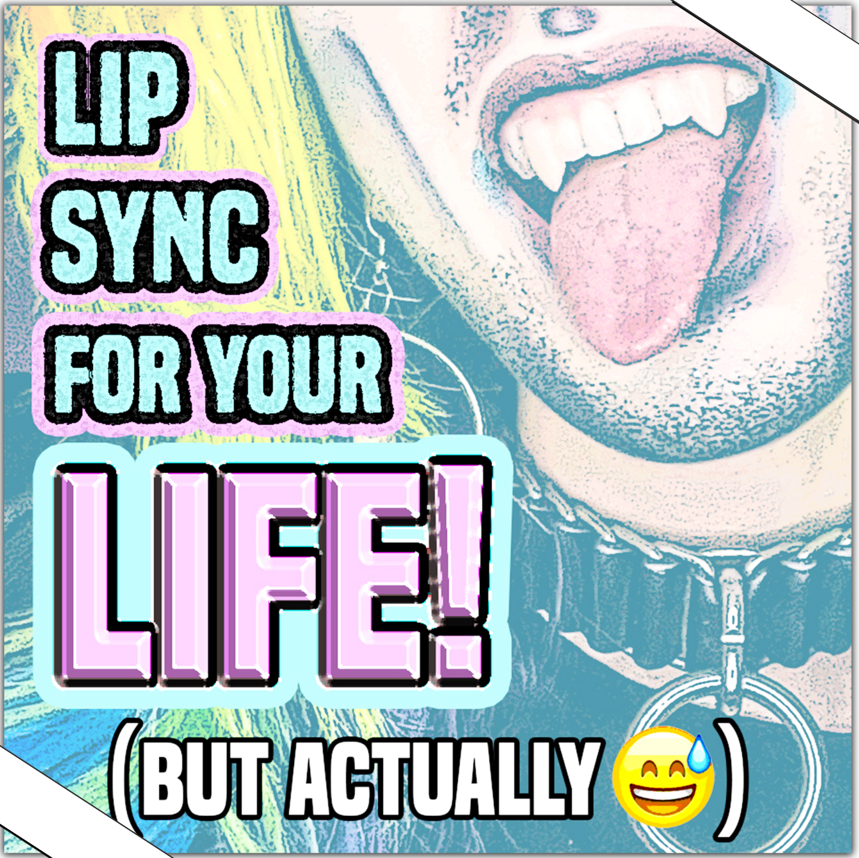
A plague that was ignored and downplayed by our government. Our community came together to educate each other, support each other, and provide protection where the powers at be failed.

We must remember our history, especially in this moment.

Look around you, we need each other now more than ever. We don't get to pick and choose who should have access and feel safe in the scene, in doing so you are aiding those who seek to harm us.

Immunocompromised and disabled queers deserve access to community spaces, in the audience and on stage!


LIP SYNC FOR YOUR LIFE!
(BUT ACTUALLY 😅)

DRAG IS TYPICALLY A LIP SYNCING ART FORM, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO LIP SYNC IN A MASK!

Since SARSCOV-2 moves through the air like SMOKE, without mitigations, the club is a high risk environment for infection.

IF THE SHOW MUST GO ON.

IT MUST BE INCLUSIVE.

IF YOU'RE PRODUCING A DRAG SHOW OR COMMUNITY EVENT, FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE A LOCAL CLEAN AIR ORG IN YOUR CITY! THEY CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH HEPA PURIFIERS AND SOMETIMES EVEN MASKS FOR YOUR EVENT TO HELP KEEP COMMUNITY SPREAD DOWN. IF YOUR VENUE HAS WINDOWS YOU CAN OPEN, VENTILATE!

REMEMBER THAT PURIFIERS/VENTILATION WON'T ELIMINATE VIRAL SPREAD COMPLETELY, BUT THEY DO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY WHEN EVERYONE IS MASKED! KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR NEXT ZINE ABOUT HOW TO PRODUCE A SAFER SHOW!

Embrace the GAY OUTDOORS!

Be gay in the park! Look for outdoor shows or bars with patios. There are a lot of pages on instagram that post monthly calendars of covid-safer events depending on what city you're in!

Although outside is definitely safer, remember that it's not MAGIC. Covid moves like smoke, so it's still best to mask up when not actively eating or drinking.

If your social battery is low or you don't have a ton of options in your city, there's always digital drag shows and virtual dance parties!

By the way:

We are ALL at risk

when it comes to covid, the damage from every infection is cumulative! It doesn't matter how "healthy" you think you are.

You might not be disabled now, but you could be one infection away. Making shows more accessible benefits EVERYONE!

Drag artists, bar staff, Photographers, and DJs deserve a safer workplace. Disabled kin deserve to be included at community events.

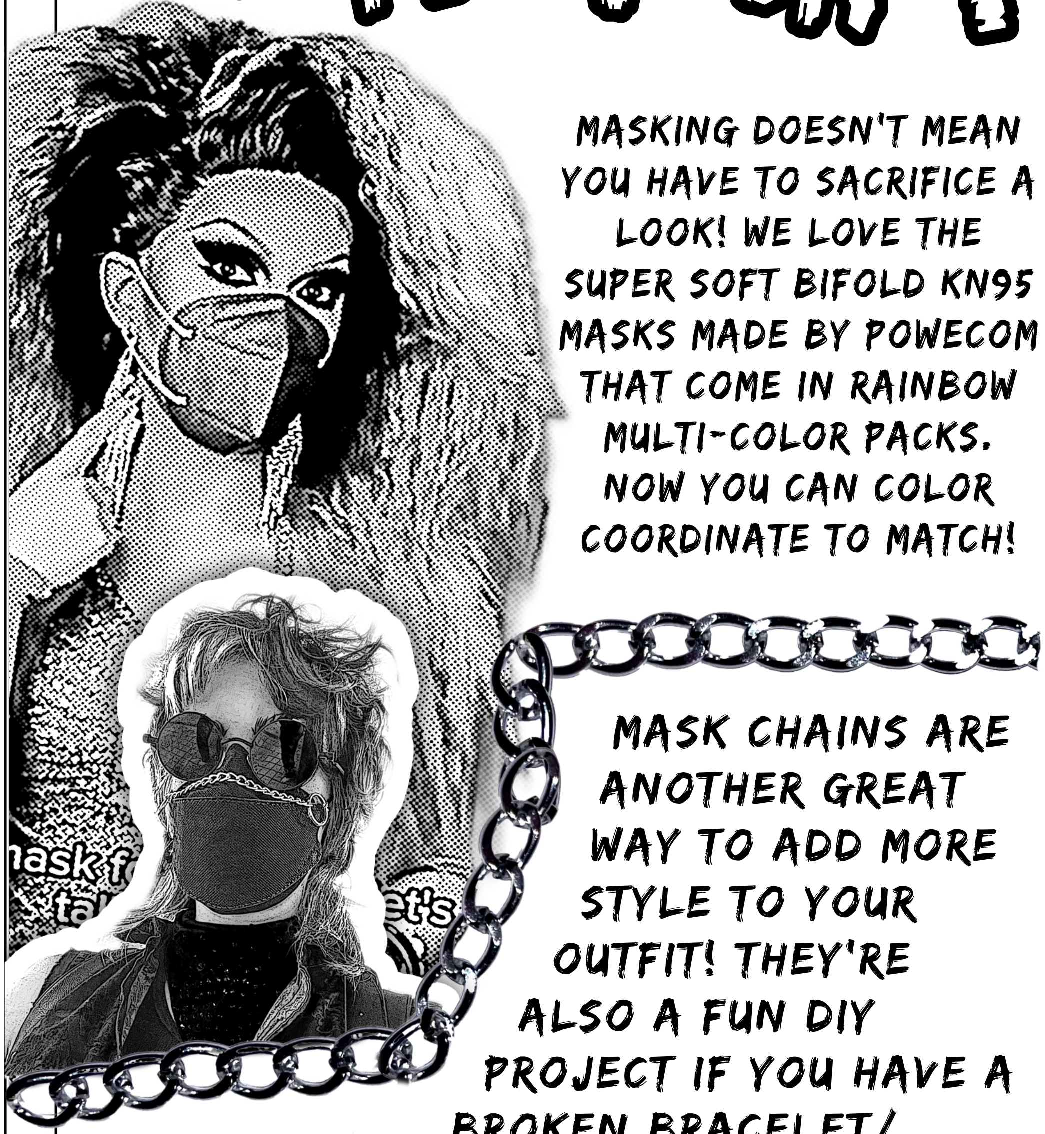
DRAG ARTISTS HAVE NO UNION,

no paid sick days, and often don't have healthcare. One bout of covid could result in weeks of lost gigs, not to mention the stress on the body once it's time to perform again. Without radical rest, performers run the risk of increasing their likelihood of LONG COVID!

Some drag artists have had to end their careers due to the disabling effects of LC. Check out @themme_fatale on IG for their Long Covid journey.

themme_fatale
That's all Folks!

MASK UP!



MASKING DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE A LOOK! WE LOVE THE SUPER SOFT BIFOLD KN95 MASKS MADE BY POWECOM THAT COME IN RAINBOW MULTI-COLOR PACKS. NOW YOU CAN COLOR COORDINATE TO MATCH!

MASK CHAINS ARE ANOTHER GREAT WAY TO ADD MORE STYLE TO YOUR OUTFIT! THEY'RE ALSO A FUN DIY PROJECT IF YOU HAVE A BROKEN BRACELET/ NECKLACE LYING AROUND! OR YOU CAN PURCHASE THEM FROM ARTISTS ON ETSY, INSTAGRAM, AND MORE!

THIS IS A LOT!

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT???

MASK UP!

THERE ARE TONS OF WAYS TO INCORPORATE A RESPIRATOR INTO YOUR PERSONAL STYLE, PLUS, THE SEXIEST THING A QUEER CAN DO IS CARE ABOUT OTHERS.

GO OUTSIDE!

PRIORITIZE OUTDOOR VENUES/EVENTS, BARS THAT HAVE A PATIO AND VENTILATION IN INDOOR SPACES. COVID CAN STILL SPREAD OUTDOORS, BUT THE MORE AIRFLOW THE BETTER!

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KNOW YOUR STATUS!

TEST OFTEN AND MAKE SURE TO LET YOUR FRIENDS KNOW IF YOU POP POSITIVE.

~see resources on the back of this zine for free tests~

CLEAN THE AIR!

UTILIZE HEPA PURIFIERS IN COMMUNITY SPACES! A TON OF CITIES HAVE PURIFIER LENDING LIBRARIES THAT CAN HELP KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER IN THE SCENE!

LONG COVID SYMPTOMS:

BRAIN FOG/DAMAGE (PROTECT THAT BIG JUICY BRAIN!)

HAIR LOSS (GRAB THAT SHAKE-AND GO!)

CONSTANT HEADACHES!

IMMUNE DYSREGULATION (MORE SICKNESS THAN YOU CAN HANDLE BABY!)

LUNG PROBLEMS /SHORTNESS OF BREATH (GOOD LUCK WITH THAT CHOREO!)

TACHYCARDIA /ABNORMAL HEART BEAT (DON'T LOSE YOUR RHYTHM!)

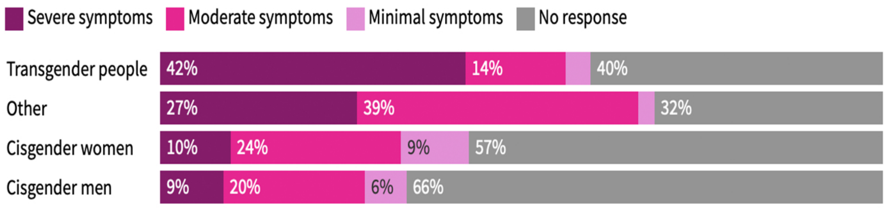
FATIGUE (NO MORE BRUNCH SHOWS!)

VERTIGO (ALTHOUGH YOU WEREN'T SEEING STRAIGHT TO BEGIN WITH!)

PEM : POST-EXERTIONAL MALAISE (SAY GOODBYE TO STAMINA!)

ALSO MIGHT INCLUDE NEW DIAGNOSES FOR DEMENTIA, BIPOLAR, MCAS/POTS, ME/CFS AND SO MUCH MORE!

TRANS AND BIPOC ARE BEING HIT THE HARDEST:



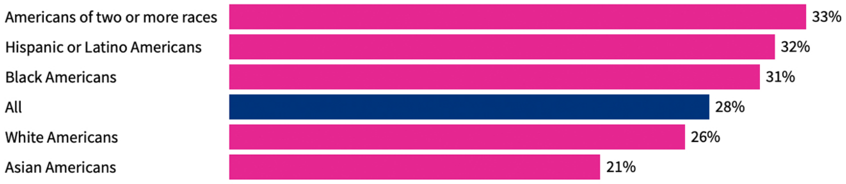
At 42%, transgender people's rate of severe long COVID was over four times the rate for cis men and women.

Long COVID symptom severity by gender, December 2022

NOTE: THESE STATISTICS COME FROM THE CDC PULSE SURVEY BACK IN 2022, THE DATA GATHERED FROM THE MOST RECENT SURVEY HAS BEEN RECENTLY ARCHIVED ON THE CDC WEBSITE. REGARDLESS, THESE STATISTICS ARE POST VACCINE, AND THEREFORE HOLD WEIGHT ON THEIR OWN.

THE FINDINGS IN THE 2022 PULSE SURVEY ARE SIMILAR TO A 2023 ARTICLE FROM TRANSRESEARCH.ORG.AU: OUT OF 516 TRANS AUSTRALIANS IN THEIR STUDY, 37% REPORTED LONG COVID SYMPTOMS AND LONG TERM HEALTH CONSEQUENCES. "TRANS PEOPLE ALSO REPORTED SEVERE LONG COVID SYMPTOMS AT MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE RATE OF CISGENDER WOMEN AND MEN."

LONG COVID IS A TRANS, BLACK, AND LATINE ISSUE



Multiracial Americans, Hispanic and Latino Americans, and Black Americans experienced above average rates of long COVID.

Share of COVID-positive adults who developed long COVID, by race, December 2022

Aside from the Hispanic or Latino category, the racial categories above are not inclusive of people of Hispanic origin.

Source: US Census Bureau • Get the data • Download image • Download SVG

IN TRUE COLONIAL FASHION, SPECIFIC DATA REGARDING OUR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES HAS BEEN LEFT OUT OF THESE STATISTICS.

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE HOW OUR GOVERNMENT HANDLED COVID SPREAD ON RESERVATIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS, BARELY DISTRIBUTING PPE AND IN SOME CASES EVEN OFFERING SHROUDS INSTEAD OF MITIGATION TOOLS.

DISEASE IS OFTEN WEAPONIZED AS A TOOL OF COLONIAL VIOLENCE.

OUR LIBERATIONS ARE INTERTWINED